

**SR 43 (DeSaulnier)**  
**As Introduced – May 5, 2010**

**FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK**  
**Fact Sheet**

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**SUMMARY**

This resolution designates the week of May 9 through May 15, 2010, as Food Allergy Awareness Week.

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**BACKGROUND**

Twelve million Americans have food allergies, three million of whom are children under 18 years of age. Research shows that the prevalence of food allergies is increasing among children. There are eight foods that cause 90 percent of all food allergy reactions in the United States. They are shellfish, fish, milk, egg, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat.

Symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat. In some cases a serious allergic reaction can cause anaphylaxis that can be rapid in onset and may cause death. Food allergy reactions have been estimated to cause 50,000 to 125,000 visits to the emergency room in the United States each year.

A food allergy reaction typically occurs when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which he or she is allergic. There is no cure for a food allergy and scientists do not understand why food allergies occur. Strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.

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**THIS BILL**

Senate Resolution 43 designates the week of May 9 through May 15, 2010, as Food Allergy Awareness Week, to help educate schools, restaurants, and the citizens of California as to the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of food allergies.

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**STATUS**

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Adopted

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**SUPPORT**

- Soheila Bana, constituent from Senate District 7

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**OPPOSITION**

- None on File

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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